In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

The aforesaid report, which is related to an isolate strain of *Lactobacillus acidophilus,* LA16, is one of the many works by the research group headed by Dr. Khem M. Shahani on the characteristics and bioactivities of *Lactobacillus acidophilus*. Specifically, Dr. Shahani's group had conducted fairly extensive researches on the characteristics and bioactivities of a specially isolated and cultured strain of *Lactobacillus acidophilus* DDS-1 of human origin, including studies on its effect in reducing serum cholesterol level. The DDS-1 isolated strain was later patented (information regarding DDS-1™ is available on the website of Nebraska Cultures, Inc.~~;~~ ~~www.nebraskacultures.com.benefits.html~~.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

In 1997, M.M. Brashears and S.E. Gililland indicated that Lactobacillus exhibited good cholesterol co-precipitation during growth without pH control (i.e., at a normal pH of 4.5 to 5.5). However, if the pH value was maintained at about 6.0, the ability of said bacteria to remove cholesterol is significantly decreased (M.M. Brashears and S.E. Gililland (1997), Influences of pH during growth on removal of cholesterol from MRS broth by Lactobacillus casei and Lactobacillus acidophilus, Animal Science Research Report, pp.32-37~~;~~ ~~www.ansi.okstate.edu/research/1997rr/006.htm~~).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 5 with the following amended paragraph:

Further, *L. acidophilus* LA16, the strain isolated from pigs as reported by Danielson et al. in *J. Anim. Sci.* (1989), 67:966-974, and Lactobacillus acidophilus DDS-1, an isolated strain of human origin (an endogenous human strain), which was developed by scientists headed by Dr. Khem M. Shahani and which is now a patented product of Nebraska Cultures, Inc., have demonstrated the ability to reduce serum cholesterol ~~(www.nebraskacultures.com./benefits.htm)~~.